



**Literacy Council
of Northern Virginia**

Language Education Empowers Adults

Literacy Council of Northern Virginia
offers educational programs for adult
language learners.



The Literacy Council of Northern Virginia

- Founded in 1962 as a volunteer-based literacy program to teach adults in Northern Virginia basic reading skills.
- Now 53 years strong, serving over 1,500 adults: 95% English language learners and 5% native born non-readers.
- Nationally recognized leader in beginning-level English language instruction for adults.



LCNV's Program Profile

- Mission: to teach the basic skills of reading, writing, speaking and understanding English. We teach those adults at the lowest literacy and English proficiency level.
- Geographic reach: an urban/suburban area of 400 square miles.
- Serves approximately 1,500 adults per year.
- Manages nearly 700 volunteers per year.
- Hosts 14 classes at 12 different class sites.
- Monitors nearly 300 active tutor/learner pairs per year.
- Professional Staff of 15 members.



LCNV Student Profile

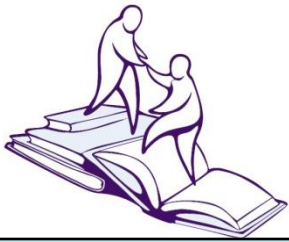
- Learners represent 92 countries and speak 68 different languages.
- 75% live in Fairfax County
- The median household income is \$20,000
- 71% are women
- 52% are working
- They are parents to 1,179 dependent children
- 59% have at least a 9th grade level of education



Learners at Thanksgiving



Date



LCNV Program Descriptions

Beginning ELL Classes	Teaches the foundation skills adult English language learners need to learn to speak, understand, read, and write English. Classes are held at least two nights a week for two hour class sessions and are closed enrollment. Curriculum focuses on American culture and life skills important to the workplace, community, and family, which includes an introduction to technology through blended learning.
Destination Workforce	Teaches adults basic skills in language and literacy to improve their employability and empower them to participate more fully and confidently in the workplace. Teaches ELL's the foundational language, literacy, and cultural skills needed to obtain, succeed and advance in entry level jobs. In partnership with businesses, this initiative offers language access to career pathways for those seeking a fast track to an entry level job.
Family Learning	Provides English language instruction for parents or caregivers, while their children participate in reading and writing activities and receive guidance with their homework. At least twice a month, the children join the adult class for PACT (Parent and Child Together Time) activities. The class also encourages reading as a family activity through workshops, book give-a-ways, and fieldtrips.
Skills-based Classes	Delves deeper than LCNV Beginning ELL classes, giving learners the option of focusing on the specific skills they need to succeed. Courses are for those who have completed the Beginning-Level class and need intensive work on particular skill sets, or those who test out of Beginning-Level class. They feature shorter class sessions and more intensive instruction on topics involving reading, writing, pronunciation, computer literacy, and financial literacy.



What makes LCNV unique?

Programs for adults with very limited English proficiency in a community college-like structure and supportive culture.

Academic Tracks

Beginning English

Destination Workforce™

Skills-based Courses

Family Learning

Support Services

Career & Academic Advising

Warm Supportive Community

Floating Tutors

Approach

Learner-carved pathways

Outcome-driven accountability

Intense, compact instruction

Student-Instructor ratio 7-to-1

Classes staffed with teacher & aides

Floating tutors between classes

Contextualized learning environment

Integration of technology

Strong social fabric

Empowerment of learners



LCNV's Destination Workforce™

Teaches adults basic skills in language and literacy that will improve their employability and empower them to participate more fully and confidently in the workplace.

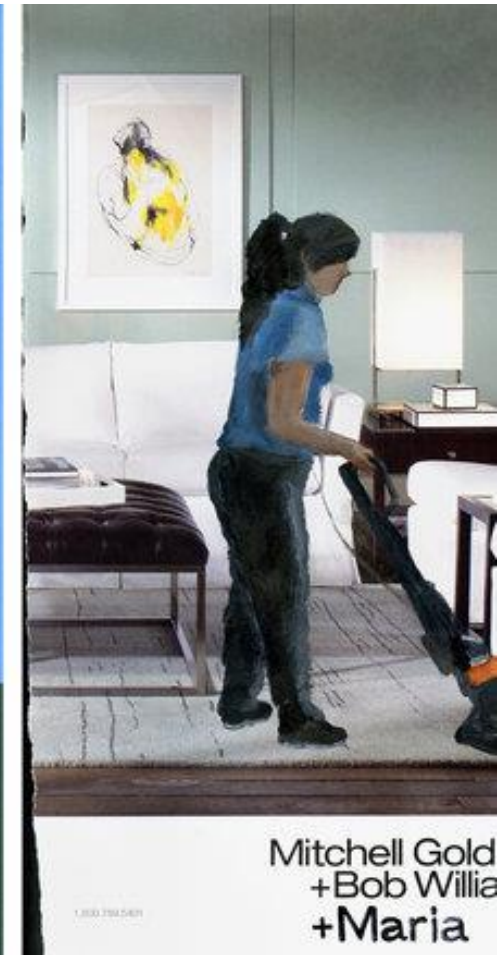
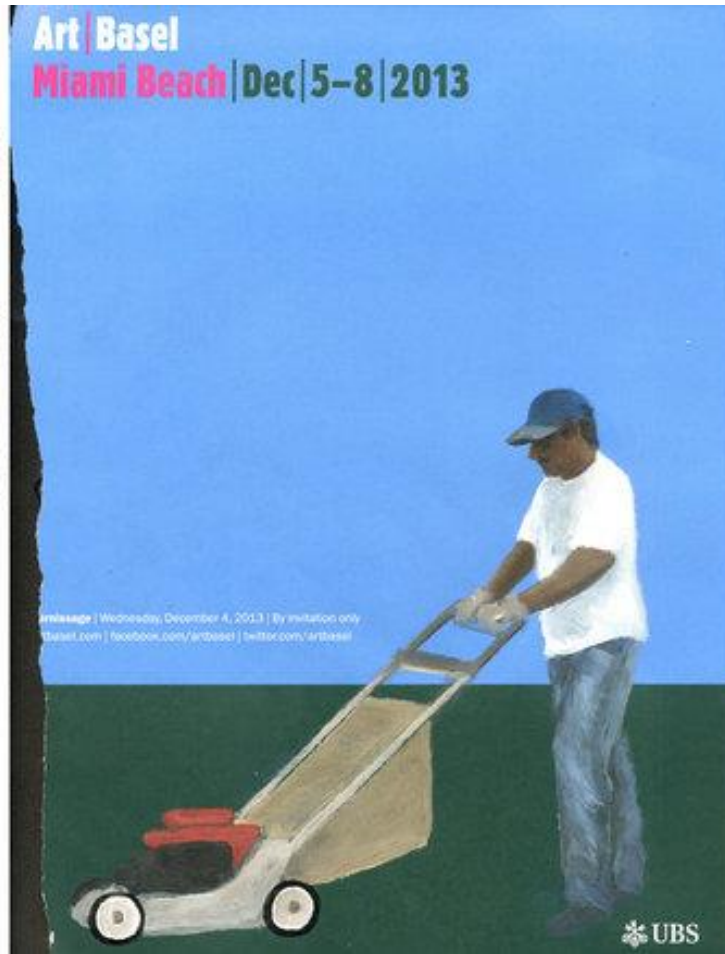
Teaches immigrants the foundational language, literacy and cultural skills needed to obtain, succeed and advance in entry level jobs.

Builds career-oriented competencies including cultural fluency, speaking to communicate and career-targeted literacy.





Artist Ramiro Gomez: *“This work isn’t only aimed at the collectors — it’s aimed every bit as much at the workers. I want to give them pause too, to let them know, in the midst of their daily rounds, that they, too, are recognized and worthy of being recognized.”*



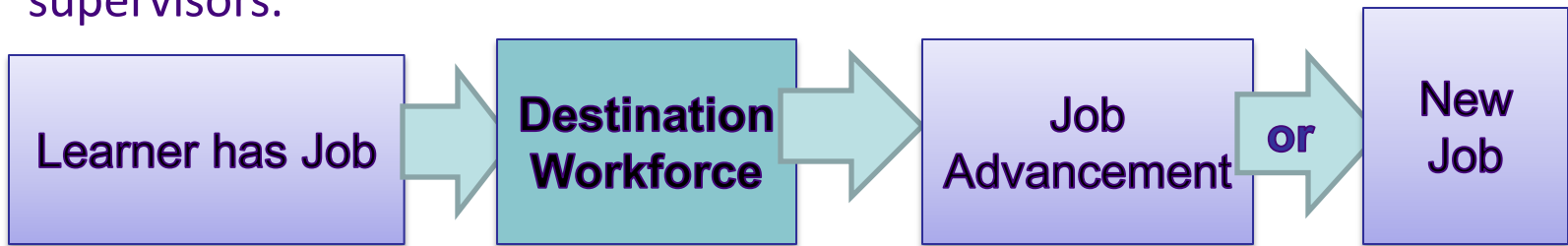
Left to right: “Eduardo the Day Laborer,” 2013; “The Maintenance of Contemporary Art,” 2013; and “Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams + Maria,” 2013. Credit Images by **Ramiro Gomez**/Charles James Gallery.

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/16/magazine/ramiro-gomezs-domestic-disturbances.html?_r=1

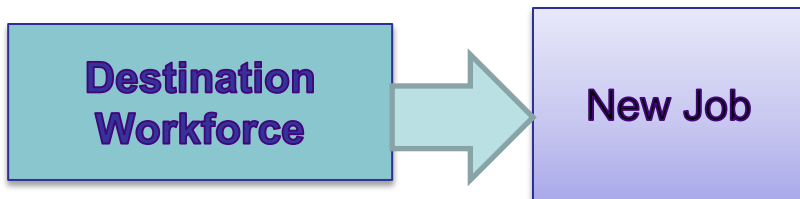


Destination Workforce™ : Onramp to Career Pathways

Business-based track offer customized instruction at the site of employment during hours convenient to employees and their supervisors.



Campus-based tracks cater to unemployed learners seeking to enter employment in a specific industry, or to gain general workplace skills.





LCNV Partners with Business to Customize the Class

- Will the business create classroom space at the workplace, coordinated with the start or end of shifts?
- Will supervisors support and facilitate staff in attending the class?
- Will you deliver intensive instruction 3 times per week for 2 hours at a time?
- Will you need any auxiliary services (e.g., childcare, dinner, coordination with public transportation)?
- What learner/employee-related challenges exist? (many work two jobs)
- Is employee participation voluntary? How will employees be recruited?
- Student assessment – will groups be homogeneous or multi-level?
- Class size – will cohorts be as small as 6 or as large as 12?



Workforce Program Design





LCNV Partners with Business to Customize Curriculum

- Content is designed for language skill-levels of participants.
- Supervisors will be asked to contribute workplace-related content or course goals.
- The content will feature authentic examples and artifacts from the actual workplace.
- Curriculum includes job-related language and literacy, 21st century skills and business soft skills.
- Instruction is engaging, interactive, and dynamic.
- Assessments will inform instruction and yield individual and aggregate outcomes.
- Success or mini credentials will be designed with the business partner.



Authentic Examples





Evaluation and outcomes

The following assessments are used to determine placement in our courses:
Best Plus, Slosson Word Recognition Test, and Bader Reading Inventory.

We created *our own instruments* to measure competencies learned.

← Sample competencies: →

- People at work: *spelling*
- Formal vs. informal speech: *vocabulary & greetings*
- Characteristics of good co-workers: *vocabulary*
- How to agree and disagree with people: *professionally speaking*
- Body language: *self-awareness*
- How to respond to feedback: *professionally speaking*
- Job-specific safety gear and equipment: *vocabulary*
- Job-specific safety rule and hazards: *vocabulary, problem identification*
- Direct quotes, punctuation, and capital letters: *writing*



Community Benefits

- Language education empowers adults to become actively engaged in their communities.
- English acquisition provides adults with the tools they need to navigate the health care system, transportation systems, financial institutions, apply for a job.
- Education enables parents of young children to participate in school activities and help their children with homework.
- English classes bring adults of diverse communities together to share stories and cultural traditions from their home countries.
- Language education strengthens the whole community.



In Their Words

- “English classes helped me to be more confident. When I go to the doctor or grocery, I’m familiar with English and understand more so that I can have a conversation. Most important is to help my daughter to do her homework because she is in first grade and needs a lots of support in her work. I can explain it more easily.”
- “Everything was hard because I didn’t speak English at all...My [15 years old] daughter went with me to teacher meetings and banks to translate...And my [13 year old] son helped me to write the checks for the bills and also if I needed to go to the doctor. After that, I went to [LCNV] to learn English, but I still need to learn more.”
- “Trang passed the interview and took the oath as a U.S. citizen yesterday. Just before the oath was administered, they were instructed to stand when the name of their country was announced. She later told me, ‘When they name my country, I stand up and feel America putting arms around me, and I cry.’”



Language Education = Language Access

“Now I understand!”





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GOODWIN HOUSE
BAILEY'S CROSSROADS

The logo for apah (Arlington Partnership For Affordable Housing) features a green graphic of stylized buildings and a bridge above the lowercase text "apah".
apah
Arlington Partnership
For Affordable Housing

The Accenture logo, consisting of a red square with a white greater-than sign (>) above the word "accenture" in white lowercase letters.
accenture